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**To:**  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** STaR Team SAIS Bulletin No.6  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 31, 2006 12:53:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [01-07 Memo - ECE Assessment System 8-14-06.pdf](#)  
[PENDING SAIS IMPLEMENTATION.pdf](#)

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Arizona Department of Education  
System Training and Response (STaR) Team  
<http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/star>

STaR Team Bulletin No. 6 – Early Childhood Preschool Assessment  
Tuesday, October 31, 2006

***The primary purpose of this bulletin is to clarify requirements for assessing preschool students with disabilities.***

Requirements to report the name, date and results of the assessment given to monitor progress and measure outcome indicators for preschool children who participate in particular programs have been added to SAIS this year. This information is collected in SAIS transaction number 24, Early Childhood Preschool Assessment.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Section of the Arizona Department of Education issued a memo regarding assessment requirements on August 14, 2006 (attached).

The first full paragraph on page two of the memo states:

“School year 2006 – 2007 will be considered a transitional year as users become familiar with administration of the new assessment instruments and the reporting of data to ADE. Directors and teachers in early childhood special education programs (IDEA, Part B, Section 619) will be required to administer the selected assessment to all children entering the preschool program between July 1 and December 31, 2006. This “entry” data will be reported to ADE by December 31, 2006 for

submission to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in February 2007.”

To be clear, the phrase “entering the preschool program between July 1 and December 31, 2006,” means children who did not participate in a preschool program prior to July 1, 2006.

Though there is no requirement to assess preschool students with disabilities who participated in a preschool program prior to July 1, 2006, SAIS will accept assessment results for such students as well as those to whom the requirement applies.

That paragraph continues with the following, “All early childhood programs, including Early Childhood Special Education, Family Literacy/Even Start and Early Childhood Block Grant, will be required this year to assess all preschool-aged children in their program at the end of the program year and submit data to ADE by June 30, 2007.”

The memo also lists three assessments approved for use. It has recently come to our attention that three additional assessments will be approved and will soon be added to the list of valid Preschool Assessment Types in SAIS. We have attached documentation showing the pending changes/additions to SAIS regarding preschool assessments. Please note that only one of the three assessments to be added is approved for use in assessing preschool students with disabilities. Also note that ADE will not accept transactions that indicate use of any of the three assessments to be added until pending changes are fully implemented in SAIS.

The STaR Team stands ready to provide assistance with issues relating to submitting data to SAIS. Questions regarding requirements relating to administering assessments to preschool students would best be addressed to ECE.

*Whenever you have immediate need for assistance with specific issues related to SAIS, please visit our web site at <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/star/> and click on "Request for SAIS Training and Assistance."*



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

August 14, 2006  
ECE 1-07

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Public School District Superintendents  
Early Childhood Block Grant Program Contacts  
AZ Family Literacy Program Contacts  
Early Childhood Special Education Contacts

From: Karen Woodhouse  
Deputy Associate Superintendent, Early Childhood Education

Re: Arizona Early Childhood Assessment System  
Training and Implementation

After a rigorous evaluation process, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) adopted a menu of three assessment instruments for use in the Arizona Early Childhood Assessment System. The three assessment instruments are indicated for progress monitoring and for measuring outcome indicators in preschool children ages three years to kindergarten entry in early childhood programs administered by ADE.

Best practice in assessment of young children recognizes the need for multiple assessment methods to obtain a true picture of a child's progress. Although there is no perfect assessment for young children, the selected instruments are well designed for all of Arizona's children, including English language learners, children with special needs and children from diverse cultural backgrounds. All the selected assessment instruments align with the domains and content areas in the Arizona Early Learning Standards.

ADE conducted a formal procurement process (Request for Proposal) to obtain best and final large volume pricing and to also relieve LEAs from conducting a formal procurement process at the district level. However, LEAs and grantees are responsible for the payment of training fees and instrument material costs, as well as on-line subscription agreement fees if desired. An LEA may choose to enter into an on-line subscription agreement with a vendor; however, this is not required by ADE, and is not necessary for data submission to ADE.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will select one assessment from the menu in order to monitor progress of preschool age children to meet the requirements of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part B, Section 619, or to provide accountability data for state Early Childhood Block Grant (A.R.S. 15-1521), or to provide accountability data for the State Family Literacy Program (A.R.S. 15-191.01) and Title 1 Even Start Program. **It is**

**recommended that all programs within a district collaborate in choosing an assessment instrument in order to keep purchasing costs, training costs, and on-line subscription costs to a minimum.** If more than one instrument is being used in a district, all costs associated with its use (purchase, training, on-line subscription) may be doubled or tripled.

School year 2006 – 2007 will be considered a transitional year as users become familiar with administration of the new assessment instruments and the reporting of data to ADE. Directors and teachers in early childhood special education programs (IDEA, Part B, Section 619) will be required to administer the selected assessment to all children entering the preschool program between July 1 and December 31, 2006. This “entry” data will be reported to ADE by December 31, 2006 for submission to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in February 2007. All early childhood programs, including Early Childhood Special Education, Family Literacy/Even Start and Early Childhood Block Grant, will be required this year to assess all preschool-aged children in their program at the end of the program year and submit data to ADE by June 30, 2007.

The assessment instrument options are listed below in alphabetical order. The Arizona Department of Education does not endorse any one assessment over another.

1. Child Observation Record (COR); High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, Ypsilanti, MI. <http://www.highscope.org/Assessment/homepage.htm>
2. The Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum Assessment System; Teaching Strategies, Inc., Washington DC. <http://www.creativecurriculum.net/>
3. Work Sampling System; Pearson Learning Group, Parsippany, NJ. <http://www.pearsonearlylearning.com/products/assessment/wss/index.html>

ADE has also collected information from the publishers about the assessment instruments, fees and training costs. This information is found at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood>. Select the topic “Assessment and Data Reporting”.

Data from administration of the monitoring and outcome assessments will be entered into the ADE Student Accountability and Information System (SAIS) by LEAs and grantees, beginning in school year 2006-2007. Data obtained from the assessments is useful for teachers in their lesson planning and support of a child’s learning, and provides a local program and the Department of Education with valuable information to inform professional development and technical assistance.

A training and implementation timeline is detailed below:

**August through September 15, 2006 – Selection of Assessment Instrument.** LEAs and grantees are encouraged to begin selecting an assessment instrument and make a decision no later than September 15, 2006. For those districts that choose to enter into an on-line subscription agreement with an assessment publisher, this date provides adequate time for an approval process from a local school board if one is necessary.

**August through November 2006 - Training on Assessment Instrument.** The publishers will schedule training on the assessments, and training for system administrators during the late summer and fall of 2006. For further information regarding training components, locations and

schedules, check the websites of the publishers listed in this memorandum, as the publishers are responsible for all elements of training.

### **September through November 2006 – Training on SAIS Data Submission**

ADE will be offering training in various locations throughout the state on entering assessment data into SAIS. It is anticipated that this training component will take about three hours, and will occur in a non-lab setting. It is likely that this training will be combined with the assessment training provided by the publisher in some locations. The training module will also be available on the ADE web page later this fall. The training schedule will be posted in late August at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood>. Select the topic "Assessment and Data Reporting".

### **September 2006 through June 2007 – Assessment of Children Enrolled in Early Childhood Programs**

- **Assessment Administration for "Entry" Data**

Directors and teachers in early childhood special education programs only (IDEA, Part B, Section 619) will be required to administer the selected assessment to all children entering the preschool program between July 1 and December 31, 2006, but no earlier than six weeks after the first program day. This "entry" data will be reported to ADE by December 31, 2006 for submission to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in February 2007.

- **Assessment Administration for "End-of-Year" Data**

All early childhood programs, including Early Childhood Special Education, Family Literacy/Even Start and Early Childhood Block Grant, will assess all preschool-aged children in their programs at the end of the program year and submit data to ADE by June 30, 2007.

The ADE Early Childhood Education Office is committed to providing clear information and timely technical assistance to users of the new Early Childhood Assessment System. Continue to check the web page for updates at <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood>. Select the topic "Assessment and Data Reporting". If you have questions, please contact your program specialist or our main number at 602.364.1530.

Changes noted in **BLUE (Codes 4, 5 and 6 and number of test areas [6] for Child Observation Record)**

Changes are effective FY 2007 forward, pending SAIS implementation.

Transaction: **Early Childhood Preschool Assessments**

Element name: **Preschool Assessment Type**

| Code in transaction | Code in SAIS data-base <sup>1</sup> | Short Description   | Description  | Preschool programs approved to administer this Assessment | Number of Test Areas | Effective Dates <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1                   |                                     | Work Sampling   | Ongoing progress monitoring instrument published by Pearson Early Learning   | All   | 7                    | • FY 2007 to present         |
| 2                   |                                     | Creative Curriculum   | Ongoing progress monitoring instrument published by Teaching Strategies, Inc.                                      | All   | 10                   | • FY 2007 to present         |
| 3                   |                                     | Child Observation Record (COR)                                      | Ongoing progress monitoring instrument published by High/Scope   | All   | <b>6</b>             | • FY 2007 to present         |
| 4                   |                                     | <b>Galileo Plus</b>   | Ongoing progress monitoring instrument published by Assessment Technologies, Inc                                   | All   | 9                    | • FY 2007 to present         |
| 5                   |                                     | <b>Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-III (PPVT-III)</b>               | Norm referenced assessment of receptive language skills published by American Guidance Service, Inc.               | Title I Even Start  | 1                    | • FY 2007 to present         |
| 6                   |                                     | <b>Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Pre-K (PALS Pre-K)</b> | Norm referenced assessment of phonological awareness and emergent literacy published by the University of Virginia | Title I Even Start  | 6                    | • FY 2007 to present         |

***Note from the System Training and Response Team***

- Three additional assessments will be approved and will soon be added to the list of valid Preschool Assessment Types in SAIS. (See table above)
- Only one of the three assessments to be added (Galileo Plus) is approved for use in assessing preschool students with disabilities.
- ADE will not accept transactions that indicate use of any of the three assessments to be added (Galileo Plus, PPVT-III, PALS Pre-K) until pending changes are fully implemented in SAIS.